



August, 2012

Second Thoughts

Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

Inside this issue:

Minister's Musings	2
Board of Trustees	3
Share the Plate	3
Treasurer's Report	4
Peter Mayer Concert	5
Writing for Spiritual Growth	6
Annual Book Sale	6
Lifespan Religious Education	7
Calendar	10
Church Information	11

Join Us This Sunday!

Worship Services 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.
Fellowship and Refreshments 10:30 a.m.

August 5

The Bread of Life

Rev. Scott McNeill

Some of us are fantastic bread makers, and others simply love the fragrance and taste of freshly-baked bread. This Sunday, we will break bread together while finding out how we are all a little "half-baked."

August 12

Going for the Gold (Usually Settling for Silver)

Rev. Scott McNeill

The Thirtieth Olympiad are ending in London, and many of us breathlessly cheer on the hard work of athletes and celebrate the medals won. But what of our own work and our own hopes of success? Join us in worship and celebration.

August 19

The Song of Purple Summer

Rev. Scott McNeill

"Spring Awakening," the new hit musical, gives us a glimpse into the lives of youth and the struggles common to all life. Join Rev. Scott as we worship the sacredness of maturing and learning and the follies of young adulthood.

August 26

World We Have, World We Want

Rev. Scott McNeill

This Sunday, Rev. Scott and the Committee on Ministry will lead us to look at our own stories of hope, expectations, change, and commitment. Think of the world we want and live in the world we have.

September 2

Parched and Plentiful: Water Communion

Music & Worship

After a summer of drought, we pause to think of water and the ways we are in need and the ways we are blessed. Yearly, we celebrate an awe-inspiring element: Water. Bring your water so that we might bring them together while sharing in a ritual where we all touch water and connect to the Holy.

► *Ice Cream Social September 2 at 10:30 between the two services!*



Writing for Spiritual Growth

returns!

Saturday, August 11

(see page 6)

Save water from your
summer travels for the

**Water
Communion**
service **September 2**

Our annual
Ice Cream Social
is **September 2**
(see page 5)

Second Thoughts is a monthly publication of Second Unitarian Church of Omaha.

Please send your articles and submissions to: info@2Uomaha.org.

Deadline is the fifteenth of each month.



Minister's Musings

By Reverend Scott McNeill



As the church year gets going again, and as we enter our third year of settled ministry, I thought this might be a good time to remind folks what a minister does! If something isn't covered in this, feel free to ask me! Here are some things I hear – and responses.

“Don't you only work an hour per week?”

Believe it or not, this has been said often. A minister's work is most public on Sunday mornings while leading worship. Still, it takes countless hours to prep for worship. Often when people ask me how long it took me to write a sermon, I answer, “All my life.” It's not meant to be flippant – but a reminder that the work that goes into the sermons comes from life experiences of all kinds.

Writing the sermon is sometimes the least time consuming. Finding the right words for stories and meditations, finding the right music (thematically and emotionally) and on and on can take up time. Further – worship is just a small portion of my work. A sample calendar will be in a future newsletter.

“I didn't want to bother you – you have so much to do.”

I came to this work because I wanted to journey with people. Having the privilege to listen to the stories and spiritual beliefs of the members here is one of the best gifts I receive – I truly, seriously, deeply mean that. Recently I did a memorial for a non-member and felt so absolutely touched that they let me into their lives. If you have something going on, give me a call or shoot me an email (or send me a text). If I can't be with you right then – I'll tell you. If I can – I will. If you just want me to know but not to do anything – let me know!

I feel very honored when you keep me in the loop about your family, pets, work, neighbors, etc. However, I also rely on *you* to tell me sometimes. At my best, I will remember that your aunt's son's neighbor's prom date has high blood pressure – but I'm not always at my best. I strongly believe that we're all adults and that if you have something you need me to know, you are responsible for letting me know! I will try to inquire about how you are (and when I ask – I *truly* want to know) – but please remember that at any moment, there are 130-140 members plus their kids and the visitors and the outside Omaha community and the UUA – and my own life! If I forget to ask – it's not personal.

“How can I reach you?”

I typically work an odd schedule that varies week to week, based on meetings and other work I need to do. Starting in September 2012, I will take off Mondays (although that may change some weeks, depending on meetings).

If you need to reach me and it's an emergency – call or text my home number (and definitely leave a voicemail if I don't answer). It's a local number and can reach me at any time.

If you need to reach me and it's not an emergency – call/text that number or email me at minister@2uomaha.org. I respond to emails a bit faster than I do calls because it's easier to multitask than call people. I hate that it's true – but it is. However, if you're a phone person – don't hesitate to call. If I can take the call, I will. If I'm busy, I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Ways that don't work very well at all include calling the church office (I check my voicemail there whenever I am in the office – but that can be hit or miss, especially over the weekend). Also, I am horrible at responding to Facebook messages. I know, I know – I'm young enough to be able to do it – but I just never really got into it.

In future newsletters, I'll have more updates on what a minister does, what his calendar is like, etc!

In Faith,
Rev. Scott

Remember to gather water on your summer travels to bring to the Water Communion service on September 2.



Planks and Slivers from the Board

By Nancy VanderSluis Chair, Board of Trustees



Here we are again at another threshold. As we step over it into the 2012-2013 church year, it is my distinct honor to be serving our congregation as the chairperson of the Board of Trustees.

The place we are leaving, the 2011-2012 church year, was highly productive. The board worked to focus the direction of the church by enunciating our vision with a new Mission Statement which was approved at the annual meeting. We all supported our church and our values by generously contributing to the stewardship drive, allowing us to adopt a budget that will assure funding to operate, innovate and grow into our mission. And finally, we took an exciting step toward moving to a different space that better supports our mission by adopting the recommendations of the UUA capital campaign consultant.

As we reflect on those accomplishments at this threshold, please join me in thanking all of the board members who have served so well. Now moving off the board are Kathy Bell, Lorraine Duggin, Laura Neece-Baltaro and Don Shennum. Cheri Cody, who so capably served as chairperson last year, will remain on the board, along with JoAnne Draper and Anita Jeck. We are very grateful to welcome two new board members, Bill Kuhn and Michael Lynne, to complete a now smaller, six-person board.

As we move into the space of the coming church year, the board will work hard to carry forward the momentum of all those who have worked so diligently to get us to where we are today. I invite you join in that effort.

Nancy



Share the Plate for August: the Nebraska Humane Society

One half of Second Unitarian's offering received in August will go to the Nebraska Humane Society.

The Nebraska Humane Society's mission is *to protect, save, and enrich the lives of animals in the communities they serve*. The shelter was founded in 1875 and is the fifth oldest Humane Society in the United States! The organization was originally established for the protection of both animals and children. In the mid-1940's, state agencies began to embrace child welfare issues, leaving the Nebraska Humane Society as the sole organization within the Omaha area designated for the protection of animals. They provide education, give sanctuary to animals, encourage adoptions and promote responsible pet ownership. By providing animal control services to much of the metro area, they also serve the citizens of our community.

To nominate an organization for our Share the Plate program, visit the church website or contact the Social Justice Coordinating Council or Rev. Scott.



Treasurer's Report

By Pat Caffrey, Treasurer

Second Unitarian Church Treasurer's Report Month End for June 30, 2012

Your generosity and stewardship are greatly appreciated!

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	June	Year-To-Date
Income	\$14,832.00	\$180,274.53
Expenses	-\$24,826.51	-\$180,053.24
Net Over/Short	-\$ 9,994.51	\$ 221.29

YTD Pledge Income/Current Year: \$153,135.39 reflects 97.70% of \$156,747.00 Total Pledged for 2011-12.

YTD New Pledge Income/Current Year: \$6,165.00 received of New Pledges for \$6,145.00 for 2011-12.

If you would like more detailed financial statements, please contact me.

Thank you!

Treasurer
Pat Caffrey

Congratulations on the Ordination of Reverend Laura Shennum



Second Unitarian member Laura Shennum was ordained June 10 at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln, witnessed by family, friends, fellow ministers, and coworkers.



Photos courtesy Harry Heafer



Announcing: Peter Mayer in Concert September 22

We are thrilled to announce that Unitarian Universalist singer/songwriter **Peter Mayer**, the writer of "Blue Boat Home" and "Holy Now," will perform live to support the growing ministries of Second Unitarian Church! Peter's music has touched many people and as part of the Unitarian Universalist hymnal "Singing the Journey" we have shared his poetry and music in worship.



Circle this date on your calendar: **Saturday, September 22, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.** To accommodate the people we expect, the concert will be presented at First Unitarian Church of Omaha, 3114 Harney. Tickets will be \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, and will be available mid-August

Tell your neighbors and friends! See the church website, 2uomaha.org/mayer for the latest information

If you can't make the concert that evening, Peter will join us in worship on Sunday, September 23.



Photo courtesy Paul Dols



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF

LOVE

www.StandingontheSideofLove.org



**I SCREAM
YOU SCREAM
WE ALL SCREAM
FOR ICE CREAM!**



After the Water Communion Service on **September 2**, you can satisfy that yearning at Fellowship Committee's annual **Ice Cream Social**.

First Service attendees, please plan to stay for ice cream and fellowship during our usual social hour, following the First Service, **at 10:30 a.m.**

Those who plan to attend the Second Service, please come early for treats and fellowship. See Judy Eller or Betty Segell if you have questions.



Writing for Spiritual Growth Returns

By Pete Miller

Writing for Spiritual Growth is back! After a brief hiatus, the long-running group will be returning starting Saturday, August 11.

This is a great opportunity to express your creative side in a safe and nurturing environment. No special skills are required, just a desire to put pen to paper and explore. Part of Spiritual Growth is asking questions; writing is a great way to go deeper into those questions and to share them with others. Writing can reveal things that we weren't consciously aware of, or give us perspective on difficult life situations. Not that we need to be terribly serious about it all! Playfulness and humor are sometimes the best way to get past our fears and doubts.

We'll be writing poems, essays, and stories. There will be both writing games and opportunities to let the stream of consciousness flow freely. Sometimes we'll really challenge ourselves, and sometimes we'll just share humorous personal experiences. But it's up to you: Although this group has existed for years, it's off to a new start and the members will determine its direction.

Please join us on the second Saturday of each month from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. We will be meeting downstairs. Please see Pete Miller if you have any questions.

Annual Book Sale is September 9 and 16



It's almost time for the annual Second Unitarian **Macyl Boruff Library Book Sale!** The sale will be held on **Sunday, September 9, and Sunday, September 16.**

DONATE! Do you have any books you've read and are just waiting for an excuse to get rid of? If so, bring them to the church and put them near the library. We appreciate your donations!

PURCHASE! Cost of books will be a free-will donation. You can browse and see what the other members of our congregation have been reading and are ready to recycle!

Macyl Boruff was a loved member of our congregation and was an avid reader. She passed away too soon.

Shop at Amazon.com and Help Second Unitarian Church

Your online purchases can help the church! Here's how: Visit the church website at www.2Uomaha.org, under Quick Links click on Books, and then click on the link for Amazon.com. *Up to five percent of your purchase will be donated to the church.* What a great and painless way to shop and help the church at the same time!



Lifespan Religious Education

By Kirsten Stiles, Director of Religious Growth & Learning



Get Ready for Back to Church!

The month of August is a busy month for many, especially for parents with children gearing up to go back to school. August is a month filled with anticipation for many children who are looking forward to returning to school. Back to school also means back to church.

We want to make sure our families are looking forward to coming back to church just as much as they are going back to school. This year, we have done something totally different than prior years. With this will come exciting adventures throughout the church year; adventures of the heart, mind, and spirit. A real live get out and go, hands-on learning adventure! This is one adventure that can be shared with the whole family.

So what is it? You're probably super curious by now. So I'll go ahead and spill the beans.

On one Sunday each month, we will be holding our Sunday morning RE classes offsite at a different location. But that isn't the only thing making this such a learning adventure for the mind and spirit. *It's what we will do at the chosen destination and who we will help.* How it will make us feel and how it will change the lives of so many.

I am looking forward to all the good we can accomplish through these special service learning projects.

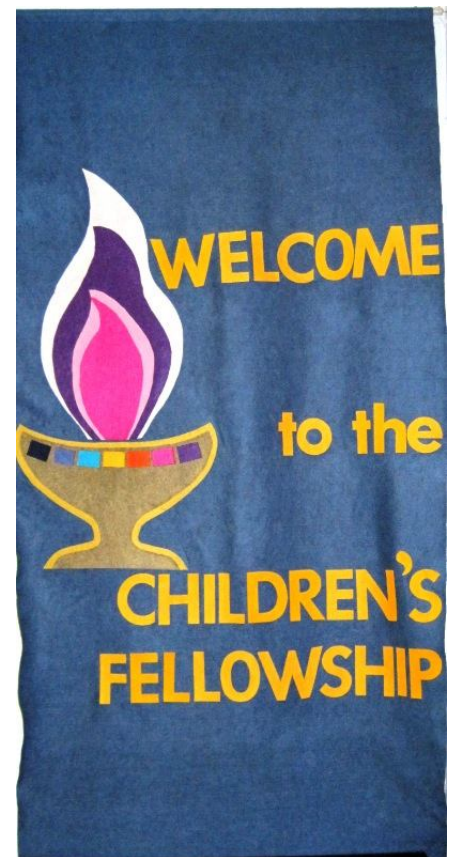
Extreme Makeover - Classroom Edition

Our classroom area is getting a long-overdue makeover. We have even incorporated a space for our teens right here under our very own roof, comfy and cozy. The overall transformation of our children's worship space indoors and outdoors is one that creates their own special spaces where they can meet, talk, learn, and dream.

HELP WANTED -- Religious Education Volunteers

It's time again to start recruiting our Volunteer teachers for the coming year. I encourage if you're even slightly interested, contact me. Find out what comes with being a volunteer teacher or volunteer assistant teacher.

If you are interested, contact me, Kirsten Stiles, at dre@2uomaha.org or 402-334-0537 ext. 112. I look forward to hearing from you and am eager to tell you all about our program!





Meditation Reincarnated

By Kevin Dunlop

Imagine the value of the following: a more positive state of mind; better health; improved mental clarity; peace of mind; less stress; more creativity. Would you place a high value on those kinds of improvements in your life? They can be yours simply by devoting a few minutes each day to meditation. Are you able to feel your breath as it comes into and out of your body? Then you can meditate! Spend 5, 10, or 15 minutes a day feeling your breath as you inhale and exhale.

Meditation Reincarnated is a group that meets monthly in the church sanctuary to learn about and practice meditation. No previous meditation experience is necessary. Please join us on the **fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.** We are not meeting in July but will resume our monthly schedule on August 23.

Do You Have Your New Access Code?

New access codes are now available for 2012-13. These codes allow access to the front and lower level doors. Before or after Sunday Worship, please see Clyde Anderson or Tom Rundquist from the Building & Grounds Committee, or contact the Office Administrator.

The old codes will be deactivated in early August. In order to receive a code to the church, persons should belong to one of these categories: church staff, current board members, treasurer, chairs of church committees, youth programs, and janitorial service. If you don't qualify under one of those classifications but feel you need access to the church, contact the Office Administrator.

Attendance

Date	Adults in Worship	Adults in R.E.	Children in R.E.	Youth in Second Circle
5/27	68	4	11	--
6/3	64	2	3	--
6/10	74	4	7	--
6/17	74	4	11	--
6/24	75	--	--	--
7/1	66	5	6	--
7/8	61	2	4	--
7/15	60	3	3	--
7/22	55	3	5	--

- Travel and stay in homes of people who share your ideals
- Learn about hosting people in your home to earn extra money

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) offers a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and are happy to open their home to like-minded people. Travel to different cities and stay in reasonably priced accommodations or become a host and enjoy meeting new friends.



www.UUreHome.com
43 Vermont Court
Asheville, NC 28806
828-281-3253

For more information, visit
www.UUreHome.com
or write to
info@uurehome.com



Hungry for Change" Celebration

By Marcia Leise



Photo by Marcia Leise

On June 5, the Hungry For Change discussion group shared healthy, delicious food as a celebration of their time together. Using the study guide from the Northwest Earth Institute entitled "Hungry For Change: Food, Ethics and Sustainability," the group had met monthly since January.

In addition to reading articles before each session, participants engaged in learning activities. As part of exploring health claims on packaged foods, participants described examples of misleading labeling or marketing gimmicks found on labels at the grocery store. At another session, participants selected a food and described positive or negative impacts it had on farm workers, animals, environment or health, e.g., impact of growing, harvesting, transporting, processing or packaging of the food.

Sometimes participants shared what they found to be the most startling information from the readings for that meeting. Slavery still exists in Florida on some lands, where workers in involuntary servitude pick tomatoes and oranges. The Coalition of Immokalee Workers is bringing this violation of human rights in U.S. agriculture to public light. Hundreds of thousands of children are purchased from their parents for a pittance, or outright stolen, then shipped to the Ivory Coast, where they are enslaved on cocoa farms. This chocolate is sold in grocery stores in the U.S.

One of the concluding articles compared the striking similarities between the current economic and ecological crises. Both involve indulgent over-consumption and a failure to consider the impacts on future generations. Sustainability is a key to both. For rainforest, oceans, and the global climate system, bailout programs will be costly---if they are possible at all.

PRIVACY POLICY FOR CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

As stated in church policies: *Respect for the privacy of members, friends, and visitors is a primary consideration. When newsletter submissions contain personal information (phone number, street address, email address, etc.), it is the author's responsibility to get the subject's permission to publish this information.* Since many of our communications are transmitted electronically and information therein may more easily be re-transmitted, it's essential that any personal information be approved for inclusion. In general, it's preferable to omit personal information, but in those cases where it's necessary (such as a location for an offsite meeting), those who submit articles should ask for permission to publish the personal information. An alternative is "Please call or email the church office for contact information." Contact the Office Administrator for more information.

Regarding published photographs: If you do not want your photo published (including in the newsletter or on the website), please inform the Office Administrator in writing. Thanks!

Remember to gather water on your summer travels to bring to the Water Communion service on September 2.



Second Unitarian Church Calendar

August, 2012

Sat., Aug. 4, 11:30 a.m., Omaha Time Exchange (FH)
Mon., Aug. 6, 7 p.m., Fellowship Committee (FH)
7 p.m., Omaha Time Exchange (SA)
Tue., Aug. 7, 6 p.m., Committee on Ministry/Burks (FH)
6:30 p.m., Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning (DNW)
Wed., Aug. 8, 6:30 p.m., Finance Coordinating Council (FH)
7:30 p.m., Committee on Ministry/McNeill (MO)
Thu., Aug. 9, 7 p.m., Board of Trustees (DNW)
Sat., Aug. 11, 8:30 a.m., Building & Grounds (DNW)
10 a.m., Program Council (SA)
10 a.m., Writing for Spiritual Growth (DNW)
Sun., Aug. 12, 12:45 p.m., Lunch for Newcomers (DNW)
Mon., Aug. 13, 7 p.m., LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation (FH)
Tue., Aug. 14, 1 p.m., Retirees Group (FH)
Thu., Aug. 16, 7 p.m., Music & Worship (DNW)
Sat., Aug. 18, 9:30 a.m., Omaha Time Exchange (SA)
Noon, Transgender Youth Group (SA)
Mon., Aug. 20, 7:15 p.m., Library Committee (FH)
Tue., Aug. 21, 5 p.m., Caring Committee (FH)
7 p.m., Membership Committee (FH)
Thu., Aug. 23, 7:30 p.m., Meditation Reincarnated (SA)
Sun., Aug. 26, 4 p.m., Conversation on Marketing (SA)
Tue., Aug. 28, 1 p.m., Marketing Advisory Council (FH)
7:30 p.m., Blackstone Book Club (FH)

Regular Events:

Sundays, 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m., Worship Service
Sundays, 10:30 a.m., Fellowship & Refreshments

15th of Every Month: *Second Thoughts* deadline

Returning Soon for the Fall...

- Choir Rehearsals
- Young Religious Unitarian Universalists
- Second Circle
- Women's Alliance

Save These Dates Next Month:

September 2: *Water Communion*

September 2: *Ice Cream Social*

September 9 & 16: *Library Book Sale*

September 22: *Peter Mayer Concert*

Calendar Codes:

*RE=Religious Education, (FH)=First Hour Area, (SA)=Sanctuary,
(DN)=Downstairs Classroom, (DNW) = Downstairs Worship Area,
(OS)=Offsite, (WH)=Whole Church, (KI)=Kitchen,
(MO)=Minister's office: scheduled by Minister only.*

All events are subject to change.

To check the latest church calendar updates anytime, visit
www.2Uomaha.org
and click on CALENDAR,
or call the church if there is a question.

Contact Us

Staff

Rev. Scott McNeill, Minister

Office hours by appointment
402-334-0537 ext. 111

minister@2Uomaha.org

Rev. Sarah Gettie Burks, Affiliated Community Minister

community_minister@2Uomaha.org

Kirsten Stiles, Director Religious Growth & Learning

402-334-0537 ext. 112

dre@2Uomaha.org

Gary Emenitove, Office Administrator

402-334-0537 ext. 114

info@2Uomaha.org

Donna Zebolsky, Music Director

music@2Uomaha.org

Naomi Solomon, Youth Programming Director

YRUU@2Uomaha.org

Second Thoughts Staff: Rev. Scott McNeill, Nancy Amsler, Richard Koelling, Betty Segell, Gary Emenitove

Board of Trustees

board@2Uomaha.org

Trustees with terms expiring June 30, 2013

Cheri Cody

Nancy VanderSluis, Chair

Trustees with terms expiring June 30, 2014

JoAnne Draper, Vice-Chair

Anita Jeck

Trustees with terms expiring June 30, 2015

Bill Kuhn, Secretary

Michael Lynne

Appointed by the Board of Trustees

Pat Caffrey, Treasurer

Second Unitarian Church Of Omaha

3012 South 119th Street

Omaha, Nebraska 68144

402-334-0537

www.2Uomaha.org

Committees

Audit Committee

Richard Baltaro, Chair

Building and Grounds

Clyde Anderson & Tom Rundquist, Co-Chairs

Caring

Dodie Robison, Chair

Committee on Ministry

Richard Koelling, Contact

Communications

Nancy Amsler, Chair

Fellowship

Betty Segell & Judy Eller, Co-Chairs

Finance Coordinating Council

Vicki Pratt, Chair

Endowment Fund

Stu Burns, Chair

Fundraising

Chris Peters & Stephanie Peterson, Co-Chairs

Stewardship

Clyde Anderson, Chair

Library

Pete Miller, Chair

Lifespan Religious Growth and Learning

Anita Jeck & Anita Meyer, Co-Chairs

Membership

Kathy Bell, Volunteer Membership Coordinator

Music & Worship

Tom Peterson, Chair

Aesthetics/Second Showing

Dodie Robison & Pam Curtiss-Smith, Contacts

Nominations/Leadership Development

Sue Aschinger, Chair

Personnel

Carol Johnson, Contact

Social Justice Coordinating Council

Pat Caffrey, Chair

Care for the Environment

Contact to be announced

Closing the Economic Gap

Pat Caffrey & Cheri Cody, Contacts

Welcoming Congregation / LGBTQ Beacon

Tammy Hunter, Contact

Technology

Bill Kuhn, Chair

Most church communications are sent via email. A weekly e-news update is transmitted each Wednesday. If you have no access to a computer, please let the church office administrator know the best way to convey information to you.

Second Unitarian Church

3012 S. 119th Street

Omaha, NE 68144

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**MISSION STATEMENT
SECOND UNITARIAN CHURCH OF OMAHA**

"Our Mission is to be Authentic, Compassionate, and Transformative in our lives, in our faith, and in the world."

Adopted May 20, 2012